# MICHMICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting Traverse City, Michigan September 14, 2005

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met in Rooms 222-224 of the Michigan Technical Education Center (M-TEC), located at 2600 Aero Park Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, commencing at the hour of approximately 1:30 p.m.

# **Members Present**

Sidney Adams, Jr., Chairman Terry Everman, Vice Chairman Lowell E. Kraft, Commissioner Jim Collins, Commissioner Eric V. Smith, Commissioner Leon Hank, MDOT CAO Patrick Isom, Legal Counsel Barbara Burris, Analyst

### Staff

Pauline Misjak, Aviation Services Division Gerald Edwards, Aviation Services Division David Baker, Airports Division Tom Krashen, Aviation Services Division

### Members Absent

Gloria J. Jeff, Commissioner Mindy Koch, Commissioner Ken Heaton, Commissioner John Ort, Commissioner

## Also Present

Fred Rakunas, Former MAC Commissioner Jeff Thornton, Alpena County Billi Trapp, Alpena County Jim Downer, MDOT Ret. Jim Rice, Bishop International Terry Masse, Bishop International Ron Ludema, Tulip City Bill Blake, AOPA Hazel Jacobs, Lenawee County Del Fairbanks, WCAA Metro Airport Phil Johnson, Gerald R. Ford Intl. John Strehl, Antrim County Lee Scherwitz, SW MI Regional Jeff Nagel, MBS Dan Otto, Capitol City Robert Buttleman, NMC, M-TEC Kelly Gotha, Monroe Custer Ryan Riesinger, MBS Airport Larry Bowron, W.K. Kellogg Dana McGregor, Wexford County Karl Randall, Oakland County International

#### I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 14, 2005, Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Sidney Adams at 1:30 p.m. He welcomed the many guests in attendance, comprised primarily of airport managers from across the state, and recognized the presence of former Commissioner Fred Rakunas. For the record, he noted the absences of Commissioners Jeff, Koch, and Heaton, and advised of a promotion and an anticipated replacement for Commissioner Ort. Commission Director Rob Abent was absent due to a death in his immediate family.

#### II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

# A. <u>Minutes of July 27, 2005</u>

The Chairman entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the meeting held July 27, 2005, subject to any corrections.

Moved by Commissioner Collins, with support from Commissioner Kraft, to approve the minutes of July 27, 2005. MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman announced that a request had been received from Director Gloria Jeff that Item C, entitled "Declaration of Hazard – Grosse Ile Municipal Airport," be pulled from the agenda.

Whereupon, Commissioner Hank made a motion to pull Item C from the agenda. The motion was supported by Commissioner Everman.

Commissioner Kraft asked for explanation before removing the item.

Commissioner Hank indicated that there had been new developments with regard to the Grosse Ile Airport; that he had been in contact with Director Jeff, and that she had asked that the item be pulled from the agenda for the Commission's consideration. He offered to provide follow-up on this action as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kraft advised against postponing action to address the issue of runway obstructions, in view of expenditures already made. He noted that further delay would interfere with a proposed runway extension.

Commissioner Hank acknowledged that staff of the bureau are in agreement on the recommendations to address the problem.

Commissioner Kraft reflected on the historical precedence for Commission action to declare an airport in violation.

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion to suppress Item C, "Declaration of Hazard – Grosse Ile Municipal Airport." By voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED, with Commissioner Kraft voting nay.

The Chairman called on Dave Baker, Funding Manager, to present the projects for Commission approval.

With the aid of slides, Mr. Baker presented the seven airport projects pending Commission approval. Descriptions of the individual projects follow:

### FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL AND STATE/LOCAL PROJECTS

Airport Name and Associated City/County	Project Description	Total
James Clements Airport Bay City	Supplemental transfer for fuel tank installation	\$ 92,100
Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport Detroit	Construction of de-icing fluid containment facility	\$ 3,933,333
Livingston County Airport Howell	ILS site preparation	\$ 203,500
Lake Isabella Airpark Lake Isabella	Land acquisition	\$ 50,000
Price's Airport Linden	Safety and security fencing	\$ 30,000
Jack Barstow Airport Midland	Design for runway 18/36 and taxiway rehabilitation	\$ 44,000
Monroe Custer Airport Monroe	Supplemental transfer for airport electrical system upgrades	\$ 110,350
Total		\$ 4,463,283

With respect to the Lake Isabella project, Commissioner Kraft noted the similarities of this airport to Grosse Ile with regard to encroaching trees. He lauded efforts to provide support for this Tier 3 airport.

The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the seven funding transfers.

Whereupon, it was moved by Commissioner Kraft, with support from Commissioner Everman, to approve the seven projects described above. MOTION CARRIED.

With the Chairman's consent, Mr. Baker proceeded with the identification of four supplemental transfers approved by the Director since the meeting held in July, as contained in the Commissioners' notebooks:

<u>Iosco County Airport, East Tawas:</u> A fifteen (15) percent increase in state and local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids, thereby increasing the total project cost to \$230,000.

Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven: A fifteen (15) percent increase in state and local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids on the approach clearing, thereby increasing the total project cost to \$156,651.

Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport, Mt. Pleasant: A four (4) percent increase in federal/state/local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids, thereby increasing the total project cost to \$190,000.

<u>Pellston Regional Airport, Pellston</u>: A six and one-quarter (6.25) percent increase in the cost of the project resulting from a higher than negotiated estimate to update the ALP, thereby increasing the total project cost to \$85,000. The FAA had previously indicated that the update would be ineligible for funding but later agreed.

No official action is required on the supplemental transfers.

At this juncture, the Chairman noted an omission in the proceedings and asked those seated at the head table to introduce themselves to the audience.

Introductions ensued, beginning with Legal Counsel Pat Isom, followed by Commissioners Hank, representing Director Gloria Jeff, Kraft, and Everman, Pauline Misjak, Administrator of Aviation Services, sitting in for Director Rob Abent; and Commissioners Smith and Collins, followed by Chairman Adams.

The Chairman opened the floor for comments from the audience.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Blake, Regional Representative, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, echoed the remarks made by Commissioner Kraft. He noted that the situation at Grosse Ile had existed too long. The airport, which has received funding of several hundred thousand dollars to extend the runway, is unusable due to encroaching trees. He urged the Commission to bring the matter to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Mr. Bob Buttleman, Director of Aviation for Northwest Michigan College, thanked the Commission for bringing the meeting to Traverse City and for the financial support provided to the Cherry Capital Airport.

Mr. Keith Kaspari, Manager, Sawyer International Airport in Marquette, thanked the Commission for its continuing financial support.

The Chairman deferred to Ms. Misjak for the Director's Report.

### IV. REPORTS

# **MAC Director's Report**

Ms. Misjak reported that concurrent with the Commission meeting in Traverse City, the National Association of State Aviation Officials is holding an annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa; that although Director Abent, the current Great Lakes Region director, is unable to attend the meeting, the department has representation through Rick Hammond, acting administrator of the Airports Division.

The bureau has been actively engaged in the relief efforts connected with Hurricane Katrina. Various areas of department, including the southwest region and our transit division, have devoted countless hours at Fort Custer in Battle Creek assisting in the relocation of evacuees. In addition, the Air Transport section was recently called on to provide flight service for state officials participating in emergency relief efforts in Baton Rouge.

Ms. Misjak turned the floor over to Commissioner Hank for a report on the budget for FY 2005-2006.

Commissioner Hank reported that the state is close to an agreement on the budget for FY 2005-2006 for general fund agencies. Details will be finalized over the next week or so. The budget for MDOT, which is not a general fund agency, is anticipated to be completed by October 1. Commissioner Hank indicated that he was cautiously optimistic that a requested continuation budget would be agreed upon soon.

He noted the ongoing criticism of the air services program which provides air transportation for state executives and public employees. The fleet, once comprised of seven aircraft, has been reduced to five through streamlining and cost cutting efforts. He observed that this program provides a great value to MDOT and the rest of state government. He asked for support from the Commissioners and members of the audience in promoting the efficiency and economics of the state aircraft and general aviation with legislators and leaders of their communities.

Commissioner Kraft added that a merger of the transport operations between the Departments of Natural Resources, State Police, and MDOT had enhanced the efficiencies by increasing the utilization of the aircraft. With more utilization, the aircraft will become

more affordable to fly. He urged the members of the audience to emphasize these efficiencies.

Commissioner Hank expounded on the merger. A task force, comprised of representatives of the affected departments, led by Director Abent, validated that MDOT should be the agency to coordinate passenger service for all state government. He again asked the members of the audience to share information on the value and importance of this service with their elected officials and legislative representatives.

Chairman Adams, at this juncture, thanked all present for their past support and pledged to continue the support of the Commission. He called on Commissioner Kraft of the Nominations Committee to nominate the candidates for Chair and Vice Chair for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2005.

### V. ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Jim Collins, Eric Smith, and Lowell Kraft, held several discussions regarding the leadership of the Commission for the upcoming year. Commissioner Kraft read into the record a letter addressed to Chairman Adams and Director Rob Abent:

Dear Chairman Adams and Director Abent:

Article IV of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws requires that the Commission elect annually from its membership a chairperson and a vice chairperson for a term of one year. In accordance with Article IV, and pursuant to agreement from the members of the Nominating Committee, comprised of Commissioners James Collins, Eric V. Smith, and myself, Lowell E. Kraft, I hereby tender the following nominations for the offices of chairperson and vice chairperson of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for the term beginning October 1, 2005:

For the Office of Chairman, Commissioner Terry Everman. For the Office of Vice Chairman, Commissioner James Collins.

It is understood that these recommendations will require a vote and the approval of a majority of the members on the Aeronautics Commission at our meeting scheduled for September 14, 2005.

Thank you for your consideration and support of these nominations.

Commissioner Kraft asked for support for the above-named nominations. The nominations were supported by Commissioner Smith.

The Chairman called for a vote on the nominations.

By unanimous voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

Members of the Commission joined in congratulating the new officers, Chairman Terry Everman and Vice Chairman Jim Collins.

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Kraft asked for the floor and reported on his participation at the Michigan Association of Aviation Executives Annual Meeting held at Crystal Mountain. The sessions, he observed, were absolutely excellent. He urged the Commissioners to attend future meetings sponsored by the MAAE. "The airport managers are our customers," he stated, "and we should get to know them well."

Newly elected Chairman Terry Everman reiterated the importance of these conferences in providing opportunities to network with the airport managers. He added, "It's a great pleasure to serve on the Commission." He thanked Chairman Adams for the fine job he had done during his tenure as Chair.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman-elect Terry Everman at approximately 2:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Aeronautics Commission is scheduled for November 16, 2005, in the Aeronautic Auditorium, 2700 E. Airport Service Drive, Lansing, Michigan, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

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